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Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Stratton for the year ending 31st December, 1936.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area. 56,285 acres.

Estimated Population. 4,707.

Inhabited Houses. 1,382.

Rateable Value. £10,832. (N.B. This figure is taken after deduction of the rateable value of the tithe rent charges.)

Penny Rate produces. £53 2s. 2d.

Physical and General Character, Agricultural.

Vital Statistics.

Total number of Deaths, 52. Males 27. Females 25. Rate per 1000, 11·05.

Total number of Births, 58. Males 27. Females 31. Rate per 1000, 12·3.

Total number of deaths under 1 year, 4. Males 1. Females 3.

Natural Increase, 6.

Infectious Diseases Notified. Scarlet Fever 6. Puerperal Fever 1. Puerperal Pyrexia 1. Erysipelas 1.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

1. **Tuberculosis.** All cases notified to the County Medical Officer of Health.

2. **Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare.** There are resident Midwives in the District provided by the District Nursing Association. They carry out their work efficiently.

3. **Fever Cases.** There is an Isolation Hospital containing 14 beds and maintained jointly by the Urban and Rural District Councils.

4. **Small Pox.** No local Hospital.

5. **Cottage Hospital, Stratton.** This has 18 beds and is supported by voluntary contributions and patients' fees and also by the Hospital Saving and kindred Associations.

6. **Ambulance.** A Motor Ambulance is provided jointly by the Urban and Rural District Councils and is kept at Bude.

7. **Clinics and Treatment Centres.** None in the Rural District.

8. **Public Health Officers.**
   1. Part time Medical Officer of Health.
   2. Whole time Sanitary Inspector.

9. **Professional Nursing in the Homes.** Provided by the Local Nursing Association.

10. **Chemical Work** is carried out by the County Analyst.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. **Water.** With the exception of Marhamchurch and part of the parish of Poundstock, which are supplied by the Bude-Stratton Urban District Water Supply, the villages are dependent on wells and pumps. Boring operations for water are now in progress at Kilkhampton and in the event of these proving successful a piped supply will be laid on to the village. Although an additional well has been sunk at Woodford, in the parish of Morwenstow, there is still a possibility that shortage of water may be experienced during times of drought. It is hoped that the Council will shortly be in a position to take further steps to augment the water supply for this hamlet.

2. **Rivers and Streams.** No cases of pollution have been reported.

3. **Drainage and Sewerage.** The larger villages are partially sewered and a number of houses are drained into Septic Tanks or Cesspits. Earth Closets are mostly in use throughout the district. During the year the sewage disposal arrangements at Marhamchurch have been considerably improved. The outfall sewer, which provides for the southern half of the village, has been extended and Treatment Works, consisting of a Settling Tank, Filter Bed, Humus Tank and Sludge Lagoons, have been provided. Schemes of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal have been carried out at Woodford, in the parish of Morwenstow, and at Week Green, Week St. Mary, with the result that the sanitary conditions in these areas have been greatly improved.

4. **Scavenging.** Refuse dumps are provided by the Council in most of the parishes. The Council undertake the collection of refuse at Widemouth, in the parish of Poundstock.

Housing Statistics.

Number of new houses, 33.
By the Local Authority, Nil.
By other persons, 33.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts), 93.

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose, 204.

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, 58.

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose, 111.

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 1.

(4) Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 49.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their officers, 44.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(*a*) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(*a*) By Owners, Nil.
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners, Nil.

(*b*) **Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—**

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By Owners, Nil.
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners, Nil.

(*c*) **Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—**

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, Nil.

(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, Nil.

(*d*) **Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930.**

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made, Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit, Nil.

4. **Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding :—**

(*a*) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year, 3.
(2) Number of families dwelling therein, 3.
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein, 14.

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year, Nil.

(*c*) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, 2.
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases, 14½.

(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding, Nil.

(*e*) Any particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report, None.

Schools.

No result has yet been obtained from the representations made to the County Authority with regard to the unsatisfactory sanitary arrangements of the schools at Grimscott, North Tamerton and Week St. Mary. As far as the latter is concerned, in view of the fact that a Sewerage Scheme has been provided by this Council for the part of the village in which the School is situated, the difficulties which stood in the way of improving the sanitary arrangements to this school no longer exist, and the necessary work should be proceeded with without further delay.

With the above exceptions the sanitary conditions of the schools are satisfactory.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.

The cowsheds and dairies are periodically inspected, and there is a steady improvement in the methods of clean milk production.

Meat.

The Slaughter Houses are regularly inspected. There is no Public Slaughter House. Number of Private Slaughter Houses. Registered 3. Licensed 8.

Other Food.

No cases of unsound food have been reported.

Bakehouses.

The bakehouses are well kept and clean.

T. A. KING.
M.O.H.